



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 03/9/2010

Approved by the Arlington School Committee May 25, 2010

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010
7:30 P.M.
PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 11 BUDGET
8:00 P.M.
AT
ARLINGTON TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM**

Present:

Denise Burns, Vice Chair
Joe Curro, Secretary
Ronald Spangler
Jeff Thielman
Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent
Wallis Raemer, Interim Assistant Superintendent
Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer:
Mark Ryder, Special Education Director:
Brian Boudreau, Student Rep
Karen Fitzgerald, Administrative Assistant

Leba Heigham
Cindy Starks

Ms. Burns opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Joe Curran, Chair arrived to the meeting at 9:04 p.m.
Ms. Johnson exited the meeting at 9:55 and returned at 9:58 p.m.
Ms. Heigham exited the meeting at 10:15 p.m. and returned at 10:18 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (for other than budget matters)

Ms. Juli Brazile, Stand for Children invited everyone to a rally at the State House on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 from 9 – noon.

CONSENT AGENDA all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in

which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

*Approval of Warrant: #10122 dated February 23, 2010 in the amount of \$464,914.50.

*Minutes for Approval: none

*Approval of School Committee Meetings for Superintendent Finalists' Public Interviews: Monday, March 15, Tuesday, March 16, and Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

*Approval of an additional School Committee Meeting, Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. for Budget discussion and/or vote if necessary.

Mr. Curro moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Voted: 6 – 0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kathleen Bodie reported that the State Ethics online questionnaire is due by April 1, 2010.

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ms. Leba Heigham, Chair of the District Accountability Subcommittee said the details of each goal would be given out in a spreadsheet format at a future meeting.

It was suggested to move agenda items around until the start time for the Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Joe Curro reported on all correspondence received: Ottoson Middle School Newsletter, New England Association of Schools and Colleges letter to Mr. Skidmore regarding the school's accreditation, letter from Mr. Pat Tassone, Model Congress team results update from Kerry Dunne, letter to Mr. Curro from Brian Sullivan concerning the dispositions of the Parmenter and Crosby Schools, Perice Parent Action Committee letter and the Math Dept letter in support of Dr. Kathleen Bodie.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Ms. Denise Burns, Chair of Policy and Procedures Subcommittee read the following policy:

FIRST READING: BDAA ELECTION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE OFFICERS –to change language

Ms. Burns welcomed Arlington High School student representative Brian Boudreau.

RECESS REGULAR MEETING AND ENTER PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 11 BUDGET

Mr. Curro moved to Recess the Regular School Committee Meeting at 8:00 p.m. and enter the Public Hearing on the FY 11 Budget, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 6-0

PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 11 BUDGET

Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer presented the FY 11 Budget Overview, which included a deficit of \$3.9 million. She also presented a detailed METCO analysis. Ms. Johnson noted that the proposed and recommended budget reductions include significant reductions at every level of the Arlington Public Schools. The goal of the administration is to keep kindergarten classes small, keep elementary classes under 30 and restore classroom positions if additional revenue becomes obtainable.

Mr. Joseph Curro, Chair of the Budget Subcommittee shared the Budget survey results.

Public Feedback was given to the School Committee members and to the administration. The majority of the comments were in favor of supporting the Arts and Music programs and keeping small classroom sizes at the Arlington Public Schools. Other public comments focused on reducing fees for athletics, music and kindergarten programs.

Some families wanted to charge an activity fee for every family in the Arlington Public Schools so not just high school parents would have to pay. Many citizens were speaking in support of keeping the METCO program fully intact as well as supporting the Traffic Supervisors.

The School Committee members were in agreement that they did not want to support any of the proposed reductions; unfortunately the School Committee has to approve a budget and forward it along to the Finance Committee on March 29, 2010 at the Community Safety Building. Mr. Curro suggested that the Budget Subcommittee meet again to discuss the public feedback and the budget further.

ADJOURN BUDGET HEARING AND RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Ms. Burns moved to conclude the Public Hearing at 10:40 p.m. seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

Mr. Curro moved to reconvene the Regular School Committee meeting at 10:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

UPDATE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE

Ms. Heigham, Chair of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee read a letter from Dr. Bodie dated March 4, 2010 in which she withdrew from the Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools Search. Ms. Heigham thanked the subcommittee members and announced the three superintendent finalists: Mr. Kelly Clenchy, Maine, Mr. Eric Ely, New York, and Mr. Christopher Farmer, Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Ms. Heigham moved to use the recommendations from consultant, Mr. Glen Koocher, Executive Director of Massachusetts Associations of School Committee for questions on the superintendents' public interviews.

Voted: 7-0

The format of each finalist's visit to Arlington will include public interviews at 8:00 p.m. and then the committee can decide about site visits and who will attend after these meetings.

Mr. Thielman moved the 11 o'clock rule till 11:10 p.m., seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Voted: 7-0

After the committee discussed the timeline on interviewing each superintendent candidate publicly, site visit schedules and having the Superintendent Search completed by April 1, the following motion was made:

Mr. Thielman moved to have the Chair of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee and the consultant work together to get the site visits and public interviews at Arlington Public Schools on March 15, 16 and 17, 2010, seconded by Ms. Burns.

Voted: 6-1, Ms. Heigham voting No

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Spangler moved to adjourn at 11:05 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curro.

Voted: 7-0

***Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald
Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee/cs***